# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
CONSTITUTION OF M.R. RAO COMMITTEE
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of M.R. Rao a few years ago;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the date on which the Government received this report;

(d) the recommendations which have been decided to be implemented by the Government so far;

(e) the details of the recommendations rejected by the Government; and

(f) the reasons for the rejection thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (f): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, hadconstituted a Seed Policy Review Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.V. Rao, ex-Vice- Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University and formerly Director General, ICAR to examine the changes required in the Seed Policy in the context of changing environment. The Group had submitted its Report to the Government in April, 1997. The Group gave its recommendations under the following frame work:-

i) Plant Breeders` & Farmers Rights,
ii) Seed production & distribution,
iii) Import − Export of seeds,
iv) Quality Control & Seed legislation,
v) Plant quarantine.

A Core Group was constituted to study the various recommendations on the basis of theirmerits in connection with operationalisation of the Seed Sector Reform as proposed by Dr.M.V. Rao`s Committee. The gist of the major recommendations and action taken there on are as under:-

i) Plant Breeders` & Farmers Rights:

Plant Variety Protection & Farmers` Right Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14th December, 1999.

ii) Seed production & distribution:

Schemes for establishment and maintenance of Seed Bank and Seed Crop Insurance have already been introduced from last year.

iii) Import − Export of seeds:

The EXIM Committee in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is meeting everymonth to dispose off the proposals received for export and import of seeds and planting material. Steps have been taken to facilitate export of seeds as suggested by the Group.

iv) Quality Control & Seed legislation:

As recommended by the Group a draft Seeds Act, 2000 replacing the existing Seeds Act,1966 has been prepared and circulated seeking comments from concerned Ministries prior to introduction in Parliament.

v) Plant quarantine:

As per the recommendation of the Group the Plant Quarantine system has been strengthened with men and material.